

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7865

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 4193

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, BG

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH NEW FOREIGN MINISTER

1. AT TEA GIVEN YESTERDAY AFTERNOON BY PRESIDENT MUSHTAQUE FOR CHIEFS TV MISSION, I WAS ABLE TO HAVE A FEW WORDS WITH NEW FOREIGN MINISTER AND FORMER PRESIDENT, ABU SAYEED CHOUDHURY, AND TO CONGRATULATE HIM ON HIS NEW OFFICE.

2. CHOUDHURY SAID HE WAS LEAVING LATER IN THE DAY FOR NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN LIMA, THAT HE WOULD PROCEED FROM LIMA TO NEW YORK FOR UN SPECIAL SESSION, BUT THAT HE WOULD NOT STAY FOR ALL OF

IT AND RETURN INSTEAD TO DACCA FOR A WEEK OR SO BEFORE GOING BACK TO NEW YORK FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY. HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH ME DURING THAT WEEK.

3. SHOUDHURY RECALLED THAT WEN HE HAD VISITED U.S. IN 1971 WE HAD GIVEN HIM A FIVE YEAR VISA -- ONLY TIME WE HAD EVER DONE THAT, HE SAID -- AND SAID HE WOULD ALWAYS BE INDEBTED TO US. HE ASKED ME TO REPORT TO MY GOVERNMENT THAT AS FOREIGN MINISTER HE INTENDED TO WORK FOR INCREASED COOPERATION WITH U.S. AND THAT HE HOPED FOR OUR HELP TO SUSTAIN THEM. I SAID HE COULD COUNT ON OUR CONTINUED COOPERATION. BANGLADESH, HE ADDED, NEEDED A LOT OF HELP.

4. I WAS INTERESTED TO SEE THAT THE PRESIDENTIAL ENTOURAGE YESTERDAY INCLUDED, BESIDES THE PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER, AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO WASHINGTON SIDDIQI. SIDDIQI TOLD ME THAT
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PRESIDENT HAD JUST ASKED HIM TO GET WASHINGTON SOONEST. HE SAID

PROBLEM WAS THAT THEY DID NOT KNOW EXACTLY WHEN AMBASSADOR HOSSAIN ALI PLANNED TO VACATE HIS POST AND THAT THEY WERE CALLING HIM THAT NIGHT TO DISCUSS THIS WITH HIM. SIDDIQI SAID HE EXEPECTED TO LEAVE THIS COMING WEEK.

5. ALTHOUGH THE NEW NATIONAL CAP HAD ONLY BEEN PRESCRIBED EARLIER IN THE DAY -- A CAP WHICH HERETOFORE HAD BEEN WORN IN DACCA ALMOST ALONE BY MUSHTAQUE, BOTH FOREIGN MINISTER AND AMBASSADOR SIDDIQI HAD THEIR NEW CAPS ON FOR THE TEA, SUGGESTING THAT IT MAY HAVE BEEN A BRISK DAY IN THE TAILOR SHOPS HERE YESTERDAY.
BOSTER

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